

VIRGINIA.

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MEMORIAL

OF

INHABITANTS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY,

*In relation to the Currency.*

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MAY 19, 1834.

Read, and laid upon the table.

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*To the Congress of the United States :*

The undersigned, citizens of Jefferson county, in Virginia, beg leave to unite with the thousands and tens of thousands of their fellow-citizens, in different sections of the United States, who are calling upon you to afford them relief from the deep pecuniary distress now pervading the whole country.

We are an agricultural people, and inhabit what has been justly styled "the garden spot of Virginia," the richest portion of the fertile valley of that ancient commonwealth. Since the restoration of the currency of the country from the derangement occasioned by the multitude of unsound local banks which existed a few years ago, our lands have been gradually rising in value, and facilities for transporting our produce to market have been greatly increased by the enterprise of our fellow-citizens. The flour manufactured from our wheat usually commanded in the Eastern markets a price which remunerated the farmer for his labor ; and we were enjoying, until lately, a degree of prosperity which, as it had come upon us gradually, we believed would be permanent.

But we have to lament that a sudden change has taken place. Our great staple has depreciated ; every man who has pecuniary engagements to fulfil is embarrassed, whatever may be his wealth or his possessions ; universal distrust prevails ; and from a state of almost unexampled prosperity, the people are suddenly thrown into difficulties, distress, and embarrassment. Those who have money, and have heretofore been accustomed to use it liberally, in aiding their enterprising and useful but less wealthy fellow-citizens, now grasp it tightly, as if afraid they will never see it again should it pass from their hands. Many who a short time ago were prosperous, are now threatened with ruin ; and indeed extreme suffering must be endured should the present state of things much longer continue.

Whatever difference of opinion may exist concerning the cause of these evils, the fact that the country is now laboring under them is undoubted. And it is equally true that Congress possesses the power to relieve us from our present sufferings. The undersigned (of different political parties) have watched, with the most intense anxiety, your deliberations on this all-engrossing subject without yet perceiving any prospect of relief; and have had to deplore the apparent increase of party feeling and excitement exhibited in your debates, calculated, as the undersigned believe, rather to ensure a continuance of the existing evils, than to produce any useful result.

We, therefore, most respectfully pray that party feeling may be sacrificed for the good of the country, and that some measure of *immediate* relief may be devised and adopted, which will restore the country to its former prosperity, and rescue thousands of our fellow-citizens from the ruin with which they are now threatened.